

2022 Endorsement Questionnaire- General Election - City Elections

Email *

info@electarif.com



Thank you for your interest in being considered for an endorsement by the Asian Pacific American Democratic Caucus of Alameda County. Please answer each question in 250 words or less. Be honest and direct. Please note: your questionnaire will be posted on our website for Caucus members to review. Please submit your responses by Tuesday, Sept. 6 by 5 pm.

Personal Information

Candidate Name *

Arif Mohamed

City and zip code of residence.

Fremont 94538

What is your campaign website address?

electarif.com

What is your campaign email address?

info@electarif.com

What is the office that you are seeking? *

- City of Alameda, Mayor
- City of Alameda, City Council
- City of Alameda, School Board
- City of Albany, City Council
- City of Albany, School Board
- City of Berkeley, City Council, Dist. 1
- City of Berkeley, City Council, Dist. 8
- City of Berkeley, School Board
- City of Berkeley, Rent Stabilization Board
- City of Dublin, City Council, Dist. 2
- City of Dublin, City Council
- City of Dublin, School Board (short term)
- City of Dublin, School Board, Area 5
- City of Emeryville, City Council
- City of Emeryville, School Board
- City of Fremont, City Council, Dist. 2
- City of Fremont, City Council, Dist. 3
- City of Fremont, City Council, Dist. 4
- City of Fremont, School Board, #3
- City of Hayward, City Council
- City of Hayward, School Board (long term)
- City of Hayward, School Board (short term)
- City of Livermore Mayor

- City of Livermore, Mayor
- City of Livermore, City Council, Dist. 1
- City of Livermore, City Council, Dist. 2
- City of Livermore, School Board
- City of Newark, Mayor
- City of Newark, City Council
- City of Newark, School Board
- City of Oakland, Mayor
- City of Oakland, City Council, Dist. 2
- City of Oakland, City Council, Dist. 4
- City of Oakland, City Council, Dist. 6
- City of Oakland, School Board, Dist. 2
- City of Oakland, School Board, Dist. 4
- City of Oakland, School Board, Dist. 6
- City of Piedmont, City Council
- City of Piedmont, School Board
- City of Pleasanton, City Council, Dist 1
- City of Pleasanton, City Council, Dist. 3
- City of San Leandro, Mayor
- City of San Leandro, City Council, Dist. 1
- City of San Leandro, City Council Dist. 5
- City of San Leandro, School Bd., Area 2
- City of Union City, City Council, Dist. 2
- City of Union City, City Council, Dist. 3
- City of Union City, City Council, Dist. 4

New Haven School District, #4

Other:

Are you the incumbent?

Yes

No

Are you a registered Democrat? The APA Democratic Caucus can only endorse registered Democrats

Yes

No

Are you an APA Caucus member?

Yes

No

Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement?

As the sole Asian American in this race, I am keenly attuned to the needs of the Asian American community, which constitutes a sizable portion of our district. I will fight for the community's voices to be heard in our political process.
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List ONLY the top 5 endorsements that you have received. (Please reference your website if you want to alert us to more).

I am interfacing with a number of organizations and elected officials, and decisions are pending.

If we endorse you, will you use our name in your campaign materials?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

How long have you lived in the district that you are seeking to represent?

20+ years

Educational background: What schools have you attended, date graduated, major and degree(s) earned.

Bachelor of Science in Electrical and Electronics, Bangalore University, India. Graduated in 1989.

Employment: List the last three (3) paid positions, indicating name of employer, job title, and length of employment.

Quotient Technologies, Director of Enterprise Applications, 2020-present
Symantec, Manager of Salesforce Development, 2013-2020
Rainmaker Systems, Manager and Technical Business Analyst, 2006-2012

What are the names of any community or nonprofit organizations with which you have been an active volunteer in the past 3-5 years.

Founder of the nonprofit Rahut Foundation, which has served over 50,000 meals to Fremont's homeless population.

Active member of the Fremont Citizens Access Committee.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

1. What actions have you taken to address anti-Asian discrimination/bullying/harassment?

Please explain in what capacity you have acted and whether any of these actions were prior to 2020. (i.e., as an elected representative, member of commission/board/organization, and/or as an individual.

I am an active member of the Fremont Citizens Access Committee. My decision-making process has always taken into account the needs of the entire community, including the Asian American community.

I have stood in solidarity with my fellow Asian Americans to stand up against bullying and harassment, especially the spike we saw during the political rhetoric around COVID.

2. One out of every 3 Alameda County residents is of Asian ancestry but are underrepresented in elected office and make-up 28% of all eligible voters in the County overall. Do you believe the legislative body you are seeking to represent has adequately served Asian and Pacific Americans? Why or why not?

Asian Americans in my district have repeatedly expressed their frustration with the Fremont City Council. They have demanded greater transparency and accountability. For example, they want to know why their input wasn't taken to a greater extent before changes that have worsened traffic and traffic safety.

3. One-third of Alameda County residents were born in another country. Do you believe that the needs of immigrants have been adequately addressed by the office you are seeking to represent? What changes are needed to better center their needs?

I was also born in another country. We need more resources, such as more multi-lingual forms and translators, so everyone can access city services without difficulty or friction. We also need to foster programs that will help bring them into the mainstream while allowing them to continue to express their unique cultural heritage.

4. Please identify the three largest APA ethnicities in your district.

Chinese, Indian, and Vietnamese.

5. Please identify the most at-risk APA community in your district and explain why.

The Afghan population (and especially the refugee subset of this population) has faced much adversity, and needs our support to flourish. There are barriers such as cultural differences and communication gaps.

6. What have you learned about Asian Americans in the past 2 years that you were previously unaware of and how has that impacted you?

The Asian American community is not monolithic. There is wide diversity in the community, including in socioeconomic status. We have been stereotyped as a model minority, but there are many Asian Americans in our district who are financially struggling.

7. How do you think microaggressions and verbal harassment against Asians and other marginalized community members can be better addressed and what will you commit to doing? If you have intervened in the past, please describe what you did.

We need to work with the leaders of APA affinity groups to encourage their communities to report microaggressions and verbal harassment so we have a better understanding of the extent of the problem. The recent incident at a Taco Bell right here in Fremont was noticed because it was captured on a smartphone camera. Many other such incidents take place but are underreported.

We also need to work with the larger community to create programs that build a welcoming atmosphere for everyone. These values of not only tolerating, but celebrating, diversity need to be instilled from childhood.

8. What resources (people/organizations) will you tap to increase your knowledge and understanding of the on-going needs of the Asian and Pacific Americans living in your district?

I have close relationships with many Asian Americans in my community. Some are active in cultural organizations, while others are active in faith-based organizations. I will continue to receive input from them, as well as from other organizations like the Asian American Legal Foundation.

9. Please list any Asian American candidates you have publicly endorsed.

I am in the process of considering candidates, and I will make an announcement at a later date.

Thank you for completing our questionnaire.

Please Submit your responses by Sep. 6, 5 pm. We will be holding several zoom endorsement meetings covering all three regions of the County before the end of September, tbd. Only those candidates completing the questionnaire will be on our endorsement ballot. No changes to your responses can be made after it is submitted.

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